



VEDA'S

JOURNAL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (JOELL)

An International Peer Reviewed Journal

<http://www.joell.in>

Vol.5

Spl. Issue 3

2018

NATIONAL SEMINAR PAPER

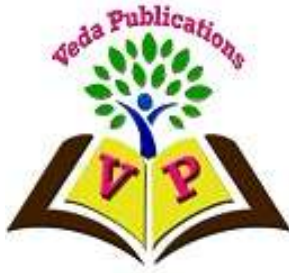


YAMAIHA SAMY'S HORSE

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As a part of Creative writing, this short story is included in this special edition, which is translated from Telugu into English.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Originally this Telugu short story entitled “ *Yamaiah Samy Gurramu*” written by Dr. Vempalli Gangadhar. He is a freelance Journalist and Telugu pundit. Vempalli Gangadhar is a researcher, poet and writer from Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh. He has been awarded Sahitya Academy's “Yuva Puraskar” Award for 2011 for his short story collection “ *Molakala Punnami*” The present translated short story is one among the collection.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR: It is translated from Telugu to English by Dr. R. Dyvadatham. He translated and published an anthology of free verse entitled “*The Tears of Sweat*” in 2015, originally which is written in Telugu by Prof. P.L Sreenivasa Reddy.

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**Yamaiah Samy's Horse**

While Yamaiah Samy's horse came to the neighbouring village, noticed by our village heads, all of them assembled at Village Court. However, this time, yamaiah Samy should be invited to our village. "So all of us will give some contribution", says the village Head, Peddi Reddy. All people believe that if Yamaiah Samy's Horse does some exhibits, definitely rains will come and also fields will be green.

The next morning twenty members along with village head met Yamaiah Samy. They requested him to come to their village and kept cash in front of him what they have collected. Samy agreed to come and says he would be in their village by next morning in the wee hours. After knowing this fact, our villagers are at their wit ends. Leaving the work wherever itself, they white washed their houses. They prepared Jagaggery drink, Greendal Sweet fooding etc., the whole village wore festive look every where the village is decorated with mango garlands, colour papers.

The entire village has been waiting for "Samy's arrival" since morning. "He hasn't come! He hasn't come! People crowded, Oh! Countless people? How many people? All of them are waiting on the road side. Samy can't be looked beyond the sight.

Whether Yamaiah Samy comes or not?

Time rolled on. Someone among the public says, "whether the amount given to yamaiah samy is enough or not?" Somebody is murmuring whether is Samy's coming? Is it real or wonder? Children are sitting on the trees looking for the horse from a long distance: Shouted,

"Samy is coming!

Samy is coming!

There is a surge among people. One by one came beside the road. Drums are roaring. Horns are blowing. But I am unable to breathe. Yamaiah Samy has come! All of our eyes turned towards Samy only. The tall man in yellow coloured dress having hat on his head is Yamaiah Samy. He is sitting on the horse. The happiness of children is unbounded. Excuse me for the delay..... It is really happy to see so many people of this village. "I will commence the exhibit

immediately", Samy said. Everyone felt utmost happy like touching of the sky. Drums, ...Horns... are roaring.

Yamaiah Samy said that "while he is going on a running horse, he touches and takes a rupee coin on the sand. I can't imagine. It is a highly difficult issue to touch the floor while bending from the horse. But how can Samy take the coin. Samy sat on the horse and ran very fast on the ground. He put the coin to stand on the sand. Samy is riding the horse so fast. Coming very fast. The sand on the earth is Jumping 3 feet height from the foot of the horse. Another side, there is a strong opposite wind. Dust is flying. Samy is coming very dashing and daringly. Coming very near, ropes of the horse is in one hand and he touched the earth with another hand. Sand comes up by one feet height. He took the coin with another hand. Everything is finished within fraction of seconds. My nerves have become tightened. How skillfull ! If the horse loses its strength Samy will loose his tooth. Samy is not an ordinary man. Drums are roaring. Coconuts are broken. Samy is garlanded. My interest has been increased to see Samy's skills/feats.

Samy said that he will make the horse to jump on fifteen feet height horizontal crossing the bamboo stick.

Once again, I don't understand. How can Samy Jump to make his horse which is twice longer than I am?

Samy is riding on the horse around the ground. Horse is running very fast. Riding Speed is increased comescomes..... Till the distance of 3 feet the horse jumped. That's all!. The horse Jumped and crossed that long bamboo stick at once. All of them felt happy. Everybody wondered at this feat by making the horse jump! If the nail of the horse touches the bamboostick, Samy will loose his hands and legs. How nicely jumped upon the horse! Drums are roaring. Again sacred fire, coconuts, garlands....the rituals one by one are passing on.

Peddi Reddy got up from the *Raccha banda* and said, "Today sky is cloudy. So let us stop now. Once again tomorrow we can have some more exhibitions".

Ours are the deserted lands. It is not so easy to fall the drops of rain from the sky. It is so difficult. How many gods we have to pray? How many heads



of animals we have to give animal sacrifice ? But where do we find the drop of rain? Rain drops are shining like a diamond on the body. Yamaiah Samy's exhibits are making the heart melt which is covered with dust. One by one drops are pouring on me. Along with these rain drops, I wanted to become one among on the earth.

Light failed. Where has Yamaiah Samy gone? Peddi Reddy might have taken him to his house. What is he doing now? Slowly, I went there along with my friend Anji. Hey! whether all Skills are in his horse or in himself? Let us wait and see. Anji likes all these skills. Ok! When he sees the horse, and says Hey see! How huge the horse is! If anybody climbs this horse, it will do that all skills/ feats.

He told me to up on that horse. Looked around. No one is there. Slowly, I went near the horse. How it kicked! I didn't understand. But I fell down near Anji. Eyes blurred. Nothing is in horse. Everything is in man. From there, we reached home. Still it is raining.

Day dawned. The sky is silent though it wasn't rained throughout night. The length of 25 feet pit is dug on the floor on the ground of Racchabanda (village court stone). The pit is filled with stems of palm trees. Fired them. Smoke raised. Heat comes. The fire is brightening like red roses. Public gathered there. I asked "why this fire pit ?" He says that Yamaiah Samy wanted to jump on this fire pit.

My heart is jiggled. Is it possible to jump this big fire pit by the horse? People are running away from that heat of the fire. Will it be possible to Jump on that fire?. Is there any magic with Samy? Or does he show any *Kanikattu*? I can't understand. Peddi Reddy brought Samy here. Samy got up the horse and ready to cross the fire pit. Everybody is looking surprisingly.

Horse is running, coming towards the fire pit. It jumped onto the fire pit. It crossed fire pit at once. Everything is done within seconds. I removed hands from my heart and cleaned the sweat on my forehead. Drums are roaring. Ground is filled with roaring sounds. How skillfully Samy Jumped on to that fire pit while looking all the people?

Samy got down from the horse and drank water.

"What Peddi Reddy? Tell me what do I do still?" asked Yamaiah Samy.

"Enough Samy! Since yesterday you have been doing" – Says Peddi Reddy.

"Don't think like that. If there is anything, please tell me," Again asked Samy ferociously.

"Ok! Samy "You are asking me again and again. That's why I am telling. Could You jump with the horse over an old stone(*Digudu baavi*) well at the edge of the stream", says Peddi Reddy.

Samy smiled slowly and says 'ok'. Peddi Reddy said that all people should go to the *Digudu baavi* which is at the edge of the stream.

People are running very fast. I don't understand. It is not an easy thing to Jump the Old Stone Well.

It is very lengthy compared to the fire pit. It is too high than Bamboo stick. The stone well is in between two heaps of Sand. I never see water in that well since I was born. The well is full of stones. The edge of the stream is filled with lot of public. Samy came there and saw the edge of the well.

Some doubt/ suspicion in his face.

Samy doesn't understand what do do.

"What Samy? How is well?" Asked Peddi Reddy.

Samy got up on to the horse without saying anything. There are no limits to the happiness of the public. Sand is twirling/twisting towards the air. Samy is riding the horse very fast. Drums are beating so fast. I could feel my heart beating. Nerves are tightened. Samy's horse is running so fast. Coming....Coming.. Jumped at once when it comes near the well. The ropes from the hands of Samy are cut off. Horse is Standing at the edge of the well. Samy slipped from the horse. No imagination. Samy fell down into the well. My brain is benumbed.

"Hey! Samy fell down into the well. Look!" Peddy Reddy says to his men.

Public surrounded the well. Stones.....Samy fell flat in deep well.

Samy, Samy...Samy... Everyone is shouting loudly. But Samy has no sensation. The horse at the



edge of the well is giggled. Clouds in the sky is began to melt. The air is started to hoar. Started raining.

Four men of Peddi Reddy lying with ropes entered into the well.

"What happened? asked Peddi Reddy at the edge of well.

"Samy died!" shouted loudly by the men in the well.

"Samy has died, Samy has died", No one cares rain. Everyone drenched in rain. Samy's dead body brought to the seat of the village.

His stomach is filled with a stone of red blood.

Horse is eating grass without knowing anything.

.....

Rain is falling heavily.

"This horse took the life of Samy. It should be killed", murmured someone.

Peddi Reddy is consoling them; "last night, I told Samy, those ropes are very old. Remove them, Replace them with new one and also gave money. But he didn't care. Meanwhile, this incident happened", said Peddi Reddy wailing.

Still the ropes are in the hands of Samy. Alas! How he tightly caught the rope.

"Samy's body is to be buried near the well and build a temple", said Peddi Reddy. Pit is digging for Samy's dead body. Rain water entered into the pit. The rain drops on the dead body is coming out with red colour.

"Pit is enough....Rain is increasing!. Keep the dead body of Samy" shouted Peddi Reddy, and put the dead body into the pit.

The body is covered with soil.

"Let's go now and come back when the rain stops" Everyone is departed from there.

All of us left.No one came out from the houses because of the torrential heavy down pour for one week.

Rain stopped. The sun started to rise. Everybody is getting ready to plough the fields. But Peddy Reddy is constructing the temple of Samy near the stone well. Meanwhile, Anji said that Samy's horse is near the haystack of Peddy Reddy.

My happiness has no boundaries. Running there and looked at the horse near the ground Half of the haystack is missed. But horse is there. That means for so many days, the horse is there only. It looks white as it is drenched in rain.

Touched the horse with a little finger from a distance. Nothing happened. Still I have a fear while it was kicked me in Peddy Reddy's house. I touched the horse face with two hands slowly. The tears are still rolling down in its eyes. There is some sort of warmth llickering. I wanted to jump on to the horse. I have decided to take the horse immediately by meeting Peddi Reddy. What do you do with the horse? Peddi Reddy looked at me and said. "I strongly told that I want that horse". Ok! Money is needed to build Samy's temple". Ok! I will give, said Peddi Reddy. "But! You can take the horse" said Peddi Reddy. I arranged money to Peddi Reddy through my uncle. Still horse is near the ground of Peddi Reddy. Everyday I go there and see the horse. We have already single bullock cart to the field and tied the horse to that cart.

Whenever I want to go to City or on field, I will go in that horse cart only. When the villagers look at my horse cart.... Look at! that is "Yamaiah Samy's Cart" says everyone. To go to city/town, or field, one should pass near the stonewell only. Whenever I reach the stonewell every time, I recall the scene of Yamaiah Samy's horse. Heart becomes heavy.

When leaping horse nears the stonewell, the speed decreases, and moves slowly as if it carries tons of weight.

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* 1Village court stone (*1Rachchanbanda*): it means where all people in the Village sit together and discuss the important issues of the village.

*2 Necromancy (*Kanikattu Vidyalu*) : it means the practice of claiming to communicate by magic with the dead in order to learn about the future) the use of magic powers especially evil ones.

*3 old stone well (*Digudibavi*): it means old well which is constructed by stones